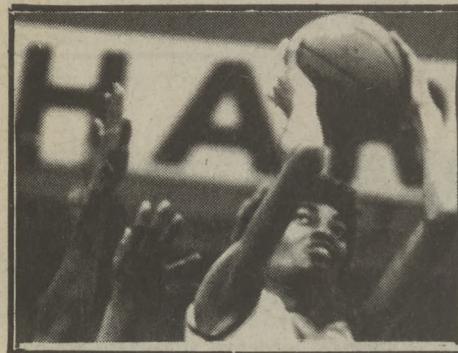


3-12-87



*Monarchs
stopped in
playoffs*

Please see page 5

**Crown Magazine
A day in the life of
Valley College**
Wednesday, March 25

*Cinderella
Story*

Please see page 3



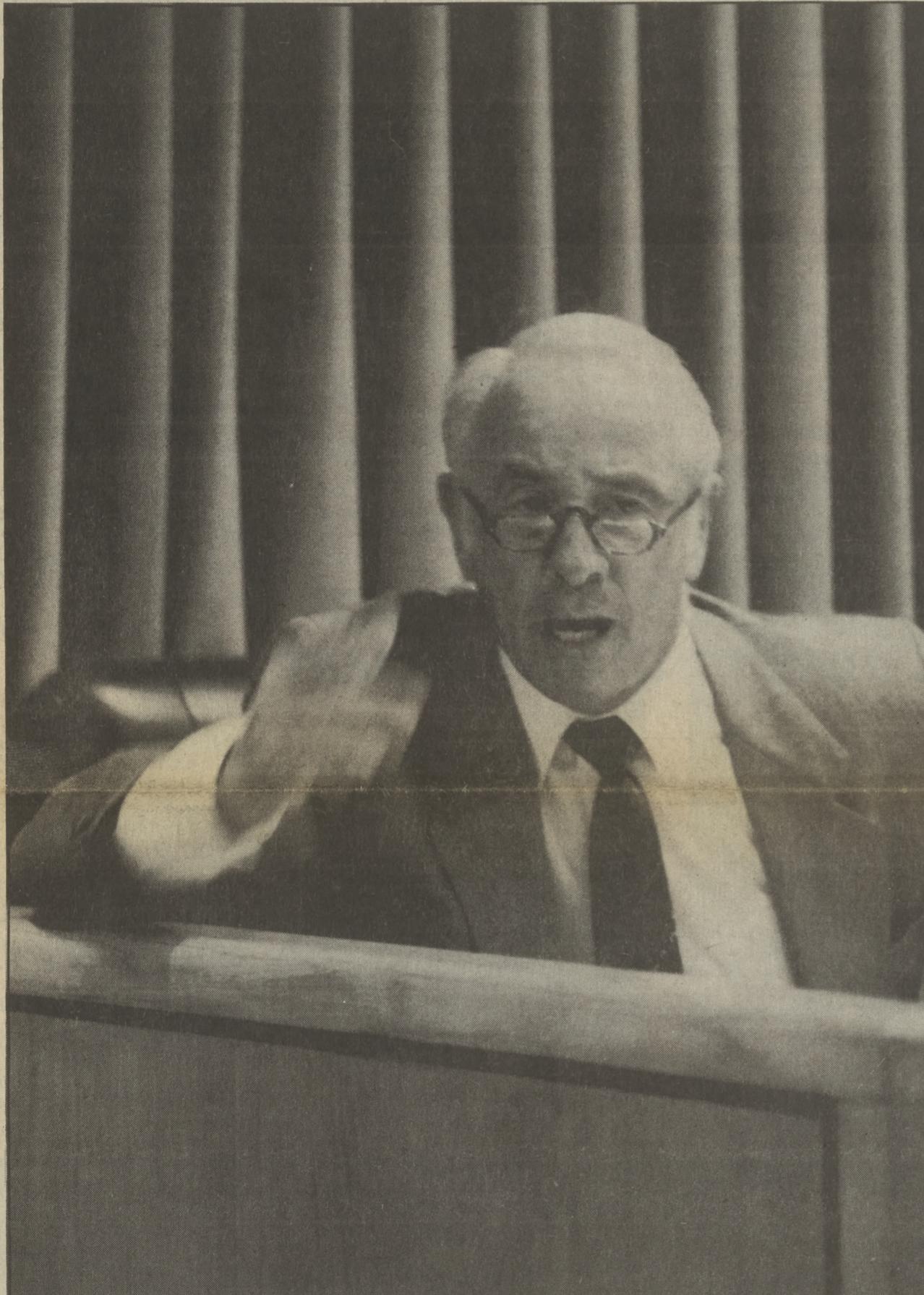
Valley Star

Los Angeles Valley College

Van Nuys, California

Vol. 38, No. 18

Thursday, March 12, 1987



JOEL ROSENBAUM / Valley Star

L.A. Community College District Board Trustee Dr. Monroe F. Richman responded angrily during yesterday's heated meeting about the board's new proposed faculty layoffs.

Trustees vote, 4-3, for faculty layoffs

By DANNY SCHUMACHER
RYAN DORFF
Sports Editor and Staff Writer

In response to a more than \$10 million budget shortfall, the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) proposed on Wednesday to lay off 59 full-time professors in 20 academic disciplines.

The board voted, 4-3, in favor of the proposal. Those in favor were Board President Wallace Albertson, Vice President Arthur Bronson, Trustees Monroe Richman and Lindsay Conner.

Trustees Harold W. Garvin, Marguerite Archie-Hudson and Leticia Quezada voted against the plan.

"Our funding is being cut apart in Sacramento by people that have no regard for education," said Trustee Richman in defense of the proposed cuts. "The reality is that the (college district) budget is being torn apart at the capricious whims of the red pen wavers in Sacramento."

The vote was taken late Wednesday evening. The meeting was scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. but the Trustees did not arrive until 2:50 p.m.

Since the board voted in favor of the layoffs, it is required by education codes to send layoff warning notices by March 15 if it wants faculty furloughs by next year.

Among the disciplines that would be hardest hit by the proposed layoffs are physical education and health (17 positions would be lost) and nursing (10).

Other disciplines that would be slated for cuts would be agriculture, aircraft, art, art jewelry, Asian-American studies, automotive, chemical technology, dental hygiene, dental technology, electron microscopy, journalism, medical records science, music, plastics technology, respiratory therapy, surgical technology, theatre, and welding.

Approximately 100 district employees and students filled the district board's meeting room at yesterday's meeting. The meeting was punctuated by frequent out-

bursts from members of the audience, charging the board with stall tactics and illegally using the layoffs as a force in the negotiation of faculty salaries.

In an executive session meeting last Friday afternoon, the trustees told faculty union representatives that the layoffs would be unnecessary if the union allowed full-time faculty members to take a

class at a lower cost.

Harold Fox, president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), vehemently rejected the summer school proposal, calling it an "illegal effort" to use faculty layoffs as a "bargaining chip" in faculty negotiations.

"This is a clear violation of the Employee Public Relations Act of collective bargaining," said Fox. "The district administration knows this. Time after time last spring, the Vice Chancellor of Personnel Services (Virginia F. Mulrooney) stated publicly that it is illegal to bargain layoffs."

Because of the union's rejection of the summer school proposal, the district decided late Monday to revise Wednesday's agenda so that it could include the layoff notice proposal for consideration.

If the plan is followed, all part-time instructors in each targeted department will be laid off before any full-time positions are cut. Teachers will be laid off by seniority.

The scenario for this year's layoffs is virtually the same as a year ago when the district sent 157 layoff notices to faculty members. Only two full-time instructors were laid off, but an estimated 250 part-time teachers lost their jobs.

"Last year you gave us a sour deal," said Valley College Associated Union President Veronica Arreguin. "This year you want to make suckers out of us. Dr. (Chancellor Leslie) Koltai says that he knows about the pain. I don't think that he can say that. He doesn't receive the letter."

"What was accomplished by last year's layoffs?" asked John Jordan, an instructor at West Los Angeles College. "What did we save? Not a thing! This is really idiotic! Didn't you (the board) learn anything from last year as for its (the layoffs) demoralizing effects on our faculty?"

(Continued on page 3)



JOEL ROSENBAUM / Valley Star

LACCD Board President Wallace Albertson looks over notes at yesterday's meeting. Albertson presided at open public forum held at LACCD headquarters downtown Los Angeles.

decrease in salary while teaching summer school.

Under the proposal, full-timers teaching summer school would be paid as part-timers, thus receiving a pay cut of one-half.

According to Lawrence Serot, budget director, the LACCD is one of the few districts in the state that

William Farr noted L.A. Times reporter dies

By KATHY CROUCH
Gallery Editor

William Farr, *Los Angeles Times* reporter and one-time Valley instructor, died last Thursday from complications arising from pancreatic cancer.

Farr, who was 52, began treatment for the disease in mid-1985, but was active as an investigative reporter for the *Times* until his most recent hospitalization at UCLA Medical Center, where he died.

He had been reporting on cocaine trafficking and other law enforcement cases, according to a *Times* article.

Farr, who taught an evening journalism course at Valley in the mid-1970's, was best known for going to jail in 1972 for refusing to reveal a source to a Los Angeles Superior Court judge.

He had been working as a reporter for the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, assigned to the Charles Manson murder trial in 1970.

Farr overcame a gag order imposed by judge Charles H. Older and obtained a prospective witness' slated testimony that asserted Manson had made plans to murder celebrities Frank Sinatra and Elizabeth Taylor.

The account was published in the Herald, but when Older demanded Farr reveal his sources, Farr refused, citing California's "shield" law, which is designed to protect reporters from having to name sources.

When Farr left the Herald to become a press spokesman for then-District Attorney Joseph Busch, Older again demanded that Farr reveal his sources, feeling that Farr was no longer protected by the shield law.

Farr refused, and Older cited him in contempt of court. Farr had returned to reporting, being hired by The Times in 1972. It was too late, however, to escape Older's sentence.

Older had continued his insistence that Farr reveal the names of his sources because Farr had ad-

mitted to the judge that they were two attorneys, officers of the court.

Farr spent 46 days in jail before finally being released by U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas pending consideration of his case by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Charges against Farr were ultimately dropped in 1974, when another Superior Court judge held

"For me it is a simple matter beyond all legalisms... I gave a personal and professional promise. I feel I must keep that promise regardless of the consequences."

that jailing him would only punish Farr and not get him to talk. Older's ruling was allowed to officially stand, however.

"There is no need to attach any nobility to what I did," Farr said at the time of the contempt citation. "All good reporters feel the same way about protecting news sources."

"For me it is a simple matter beyond all legalisms," he con-

tinued. "I gave a personal and professional promise. I feel I must keep that promise regardless of the consequences."

In the 17 years since the Manson trial, Farr never did reveal the names of the two attorneys who had spoken to him.

Farr was also sued for libel by two of Manson's defense attorneys over the issue, but the case was dropped because the plaintiffs had

not gotten the case to trial within the required five years.

"Due to circumstances beyond his control," said Roger Graham, professor of journalism, "Bill became a hero. He was truly a mild mannered reporter just doing his job in a professional way when he was forced into the national limelight."

"Bill was a friend of mine," said Graham. "I encouraged him to

teach a journalism class at Valley College. He liked it here, and the students seemed to respect and like Bill."

"He will be missed," Graham added sadly.

Farr, who leaves his wife Nancy, and sons Jamey and Michael, attended California State University at San Jose before beginning his journalism career as a sports writer for the Palo Alto Times.

He worked for the then-Santa Ana Register, the Herald-Examiner, and spent a brief time with the District Attorney's office before moving to The Times.

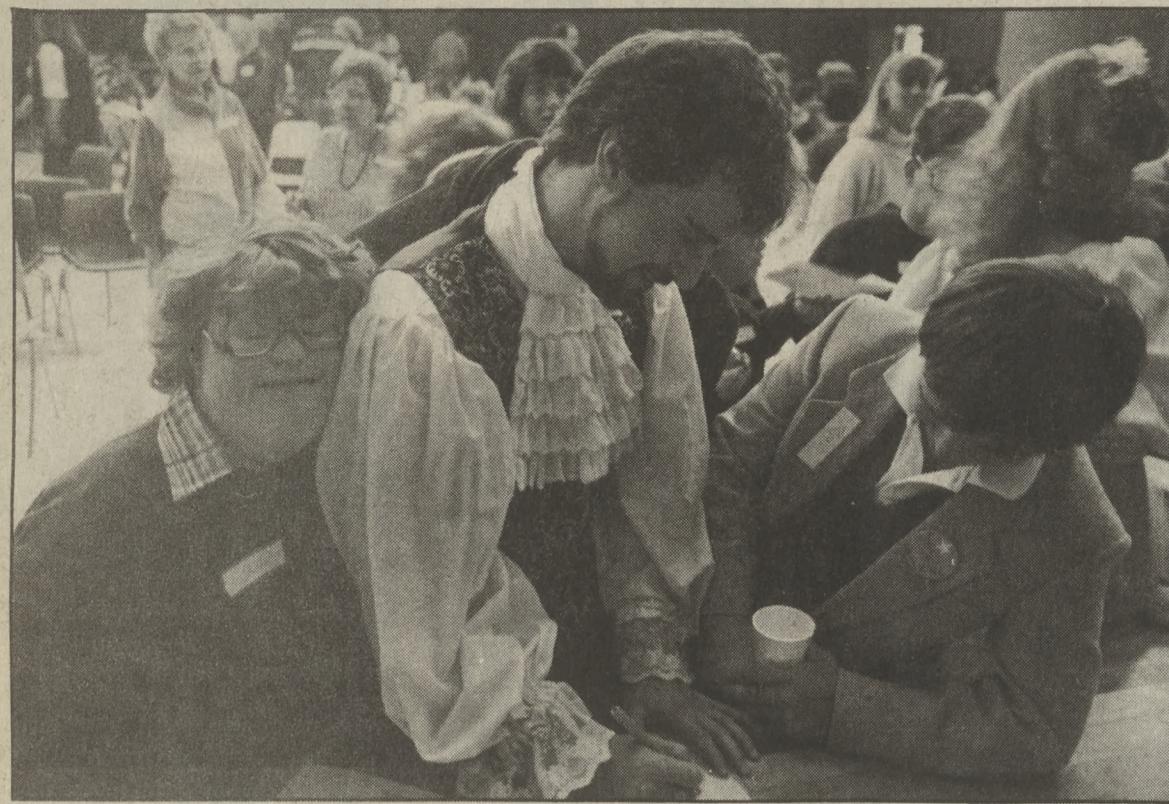
Family members expressed wishes that contributions be forwarded to the American Cancer Society.

Journalism Department Chairman, William Payden said, "Bill Farr was a good friend of Valley College. In his guest lectures and teaching at the college, he professed the highest ideals of ethics and professionalism."

"He will be greatly missed by his friends and the journalism community."



Noted journalist William Farr passed away last Thursday at UCLA Medical Center



GENE HERD / Valley Star

A Cinderella story

Monarch Hall was the scene of probably the happiest ending ever for Little Broadway's production of "Cinderella."

After the glass slipper found it's true owner and the Prince (Ken Wiener) and Cinderella (Judi Stewart) lived happily ever after, the curtain came down on what could have been the ending. However, this was a special performance for 350 very special people who were about to show their affection for the performers in a very special way.

It was national professional fraternity in communication arts & sciences Zeta Phi Eta's sixth annual "special projects" presentation last Feb 21 for the area's disabled children.

Staff member Dr. Adrienne Zahler, LAVC professor of Speech & Broadcasting credits Valley's cooperation for the day's success. "We never could have done it without the college, she said. "It's one of the most beautiful ways the college has used its facilities."

Text by
Gene Herd

MARI KING / Valley Star

News Notes

PURIM CARNIVALS

On Sunday, March 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Hollywood Los Feliz Jewish Community Center will sponsor its annual Purim Carnival at 1110 Bates Ave. in the East Hollywood area.

The carnival will include game booths, crafts, food and entertainment. All are invited to come in costume and delight to a Purim pageant and festive music.

For further information please call (213) 663-2255.

Also on Sunday, A Purim Bazaar and Carnival will be held at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center, 13164 Burbank Blvd., Van Nuys, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be food, games, prizes, entertainment, and a live auction. Admission is free.

COUNSELORS

George Bachman, counselor from Cal State L.A., will be at LAVC Wednesday, March 25 and Wednesday, May 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Students should make appointments with the counseling secretary.

Dr. Chris Holmes, counselor from CSUN, is at LAVC every Thursday from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Students may come by or make appointments.

ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETING

The LAVC Astronomy Club will meet on Sunday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Valley College Planetarium. This meeting is open to all.

For more information, call 781-1200, Ext. 335 and leave a message on the answering machine.

LAVC PHOTO CONTEST

The deadline for the Valley College Photo Contest is Friday at 4:30 p.m.

The award ceremony will be held on Friday, March 20 at noon in the Fireside room.

Entry forms may be obtained in BJ 114. Old entry forms can still be used.

WHALE WATCHING

A naturalist will be on hand at Point Dume State Reserve on Saturday, March 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to answer questions and provide information on the gray whale and other marine life.

For more information, call the National Park Service at (818) 888-3770.

EARTHQUAKE LECTURE

Richard Raskoff will present a lecture on "The Killer Quake: Sylmar, February 9, 1971" on Tuesday, March 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the Math-Science Bldg., Room 109.

AMERICAN INDIAN MUSIC

Robert Young, pianist, will be performing in a concert featuring American Indian music today at 11 a.m. in the Music Bldg., Room 106.

HAVEN HOUSE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Orientation training for volunteers at Haven House, the Pasadena shelter for battered women and their children, will be held April 4, 5, and 11 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. all three days.

Volunteers are asked to make a commitment of at least six months for a minimum of three hours once per week. Training is repeated quarterly.

Formerly battered women and people of color/third world people are particularly encouraged to volunteer.

Those interested in volunteering should phone Cindy or Nancy at (213) 681-2626 as soon as possible to arrange for a screening interview before the training.

NOTES FROM A.S.U.

TALENT SHOW

If you would like to be in the Comedy-Variety Talent Show, come by CC 102 to pick up an audition form. This form must be filled out to make an appointment for an audition.

There are still three more audition dates for anyone interested in performing in the show. The dates are March 13, 17 and 26, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The date of the show has been changed from May 15 to May 27.

ASU REPS NEEDED

The A.S.U. Executive Council is looking for two representatives for organizations here on campus. The positions are Urgent Action Network for Academia Representative and Assoc. Students against Drunk Driving Representative (ASUADD).

For a description of the job, anyone interested can come by CC102 and see Veronica Arreguin.

VOTING FORMS

Students may obtain voter registration forms in the A.S.U. office, CC 102.

March 16 is the deadline to register to vote for the April 14 election.

Nude mugger attack reported

By RYAN DORFF
and AURORA MACKY
Staff Writers

A 24-year-old Valley College computer science student and an unidentified companion were accosted and robbed late Monday in campus parking lot 'B' by a naked, unarmed man wearing a wig.

According to sophomore Nuria De Paz, the man had been following her and her companion while the two were approaching De Paz's vehicle, parked on the northwest side of campus.

"He started chasing me around the car, saying 'you're going to be the first one,'" De Paz said. "I was screaming and when my friend ran for help, the man was right behind me. I swung my purse at him and he grabbed it and ran away."

Campus police, in an interview Tuesday morning, declined to mention the incident and reported no unusual activities on campus this semester. The majority of crimes committed on campus, according to LAVC security officer Karl Tramer, have been auto-related. Tramer spoke on behalf of Campus

Police Capt. J.J. Wolf, who did not appear for a scheduled interview.

De Paz, whose stolen purse contained four dollars, identification documents and an address book, said she reported the purse-snatching to the campus police that Monday evening. Campus police informed her at the time, she said, that a nearly identical incident had occurred the previous week at the same time and location, involving a man fit the description she gave.

De Paz described her assailant as being a male Caucasian in his mid-twenties, and about 6'2" tall with a slender build. The man was naked at the time of the attack and appeared to be wearing a light-colored wig and make-up, she said.

"I really can't believe this happened to me," De Paz said. "It was like a nightmare. Now I'm going to be afraid to walk the campus at night."

Wolf acknowledged both incidents early Wednesday, but declined to comment on any specifics of the case, since the assailant was still being sought. "I haven't seen anything like this in 15 years," Wolf said.

Jeff Share honored

By BLANCA L. ADAJIAN
Editor in Chief

Oscar Barnak was the inventor of the Leica camera and as such is considered by many to be the father of 35 mm photography. The Ernst Leitz Wetzlar Company established the award in honor of Barnak.

Prior to having had his photos run in *People* magazine, Share had shown his work to an editor at *Time* magazine and had met with refection.

Share continued to submit his work to other magazines and met with little or no success.

He initially began covering the Great Peace March for the *Los Angeles Times* as a five-day assignment. When the time limit ran out, he made up his mind to continue on the march and document the event with his camera.

In an interview with Con Keyes, a reporter with *TEN* magazine, Share commented, "Hopefully, the exposure of the World Press Photo will give the Great Peace March a more significant place in history."

Trustees . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Serot said that the layoffs are expected to save the district about \$1.5 million. He also said that the cuts are necessary because of reduced community college funding resulting from actions by Gov. George Deukmejian.

"The Governor has refused to give us stabilization funds voted by the legislature," said John Hubbell, a retired Pierce College Professor of Spanish and French, "unless they allowed him to transfer more than \$300 million out of the pension fund of the state employees."

Deukmejian's proposed budget for 1987 shows \$6 million less than the district now gets.

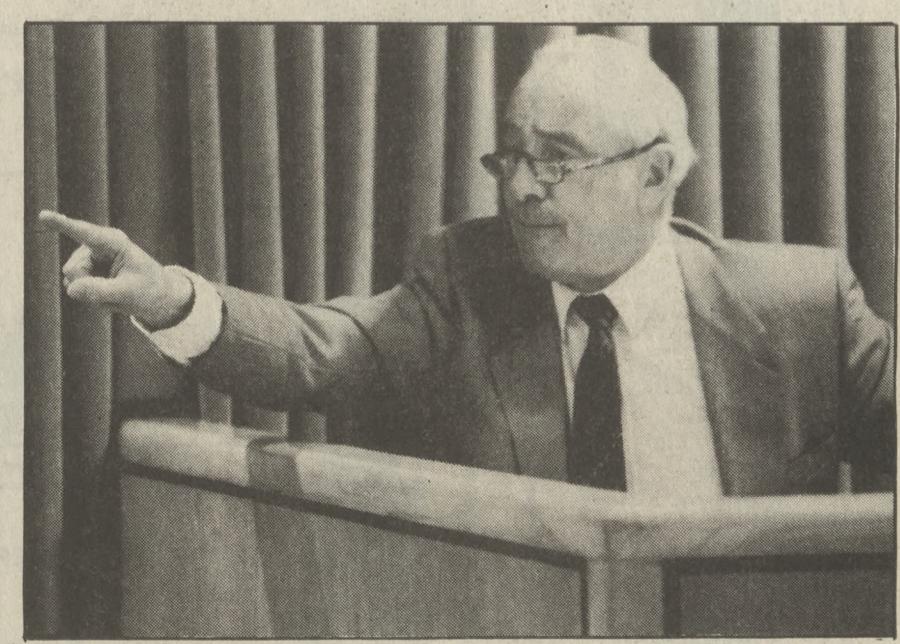
Among the reasons for the current budgetary problems are a drop in revenue from the lottery (it fell \$3

million short of district's projection), a 1.2 percent growth cap dictated by the state and a declining enrollment in the last five years.

The enrollment-based formula which is the basis for the district's funding from the state is Average Daily Attendance (ADA) (This same formula is used to fund the L.A. Unified School District).

This figure is expected to be up about seven percent to eight percent above last year's level. There is, however, a state-imposed cap on growth which restricts the district's increase to 1.2 percent; the state will not pay for anything over that level.

This cap represents about a \$4 million to \$5 million loss for the district. It would be entitled to these funds if the cap were not in place.

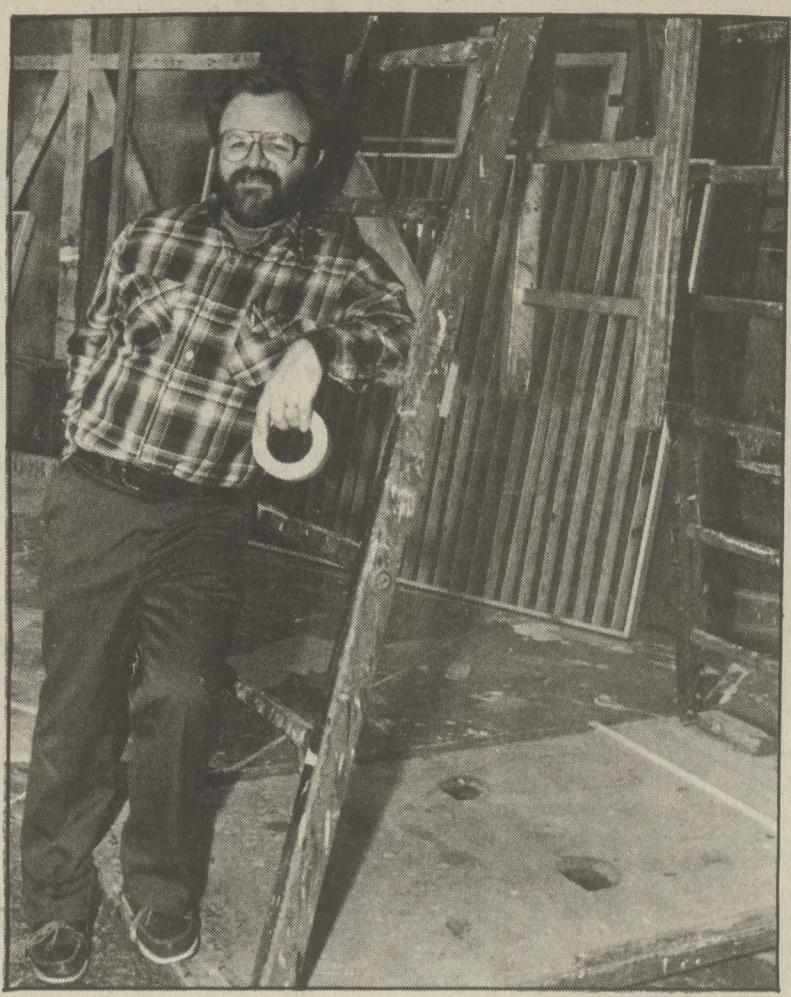


JOEL ROSENBAUM / Valley Star

LACCD Board trustee Dr. Monroe Richman during yesterday's meeting which was attended by approximately 100 district employees and students.

Entertainment

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1987



GENE HERD / Valley Star

Technical director Peter Parkin, of theatre arts department, having "fun" on the job.

Director finds job truly pleasurable

By ALLAN CAPLAN
Staff Writer

"I love coming to work. It's just such a fun job, I can't imagine doing anything else that I would enjoy as much," said Peter Parkin, technical director of the Valley College theater arts department.

After 17 years at Valley, Parkin's favorite arena is the

workshop: creating scenery, designing costumes, directing, lighting and all the other backstage chores which are the unknown heart of theater arts.

"For every actor," he said, "eight to nine technicians are required in support, to say nothing of writers and directors. While you're waiting around to become a star, you might as well earn a living schlepping scenery or doing lighting."

Parkin is a graduate of the Pasadena Playhouse, as well as Valley College and has been involved in the Los Angeles theatre scene for the past 18 years. Recently, he was active in the rebirth of the Pasadena Playhouse as lighting designer and technical director.

Among his other credentials are a *Dramalogue* award for set design for "The Ringers of Eldritch" and an *LA Weekly* award for his direction of "Looking Glass," both at Theatre Exchange. He is also the director and writer of "Veteran's Day."

And Parkin is currently working as director of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," a Theatre Exchange production full of Valley College alumni.

"What I like about being at Valley College," said Parkin, "is the fine reputation it enjoys among alumni and the theatre industry. I always get calls and visits from alumni and occasionally I can help them get jobs from my many connections in the industry."

Among the famous graduates of the theatre department are: Tom Selleck ("Magnum P.I."), Victor French ("Highway to Heaven"), Christopher Norris ("Trapper John"), Ed Begley, Jr. ("St. Elsewhere") and Peggy Lipton ("The Mod Squad").

But making a living as an actor is a difficult proposition. Figures released by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) indicate that only 6 percent of their members earn a good living from acting. However, many graduates are working behind the scenes and therefore have a better possibility of being employed.

The next production of the theatre department will be "Cold Storage," scheduled to open April 30. Then on May 14, the widely acclaimed musical, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" will be performed by a mixed bag of students and professionals.

"I had an evening acting class (at Valley) and I asked them to bring me their bios. Out of 35 people in the class, I got about 10 professional theatrical acting resumes, with credits you wouldn't

believe," said Parkin.

"When it comes to musicians, we almost always have to hire professionals. In the case of "Gypsy," last summer's musical, we had a full pit orchestra headed by Bob Young. For 'Best Little Whorehouse' we have a country music group on stage, which will save us a considerable amount of money."

For those who have seen the movie, Parkin assures them "any resemblance between the movie and the play is purely coincidental."

"When I saw the play, I loved it! What a fun show. No great social message, just fun. Not dirty... (even though it has) a little body. You have to have some body when you're talking about a whorehouse."

"We're always looking for productions that have as many female roles as male roles, and this show lends itself to that... a whole whorehouse full of girls!"

In exploring the activities of the broadcasting department, Parkin said, "I hope you quote me, in that we seem to be running off in different directions. We have a totally separate broadcasting department and over here we have theatre and film. A lot of this stuff that we're talking about is really the same thing and perhaps if we amalgamated, we would have greater strength."

"Certainly there would be greater focus for the students. It might save money and eliminate any jealousy between the different departments."

"We just got a bunch of video equipment that we're going to put on line in a month or so. It'll be used in our acting classes, so we'll be competing with the broadcasting department."

"We'll have instant replay so our students can see what they're doing wrong, or right. And in addition, we'll have a video library of our shows. It'll make it easier to train students."

And as for the future, Parkin says he hopes the department "will be able to continue to grow and turn out good theater people as we have in the past."

Dancers enchant

By CHRISTINE ZIAYA
Entertainment Editor

Everything is beautiful at the ballet.

And the American Ballet Theatre's recent production of "The Sleeping Beauty" once again reconfirmed this adage.

Watching this spectacular vision one cannot escape the thrill. Shivers of delight creep up one's spine, flooding the body with this tingling sensation.

It is ballet at its best.

This enchanting three-act fairy tale first received its World Premiere back in January, 1890.

The current production includes choreography after Marius Petipa (the original choreographer) and is set to the music of Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky. Staging and additional choreography are by Kenneth MacMillan, American Ballet Theatre Artistic Associate.

The story begins at the christening of Princess Aurora (Cheryl Yeager). The evil Fairy Carabosse (Clark Tippet), uninvited to the celebration, appears anyway and puts a curse on Aurora, pronouncing she will in the future prick her finger on a needle and die.

The good Lilac Fairy (Christine Dunham) however, comes to the rescue and thwarts the curse, proclaiming Aurora will fall into a deep sleep instead.

As the story unfolds, the Lilac Fairy's prediction is fulfilled and along with Aurora, the Palace and its people are cast under a spell of deep sleep.

After 100 years have elapsed, Prince Desire (Julio Bocca) reflecting on his ideal love, is granted a vision of the princess. He is led to the "sleeping beauty" and with his one magic kiss, he breaks the spell and is then blessed with her hand in marriage.

As Princess Aurora, Yeager is exquisite. Her performance is rich with clear, elegant lines. One might



Susan Jaffe to appear March 14 in "La Bayadere" with the ABT.

almost presume she is more than a mere human, as she glides across the opulent stage.

Bocca, as Prince Desire, does a masterful job. His enthusiasm is inspiring; his style highly polished.

Dunham adds a sparkle of magic to this show; Tippet the tense drama.

Yet others with minor roles are also to be commended for their precision and grace. The dance utilizing arcs of flowers is sublime and its intricacy is performed with the greatest of ease.

Nicholas Georgiadis' lavish costumes and scenery are more than appropriate to this sumptuous show. His "forest" is superb and utterly spellbinding.

And Thomas Skelton's imaginative lighting creates the necessary effects, enhancing the moods and transitions of each scene.

This production of Perrault's romantic story is dazzling, delightful and simply divine; it is a true celebration of life.

The American Ballet Theatre's three-week repertory engagement at Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium continues through March 22.

For general information call (213) 553-9000. To order tickets dial (800) 233-3123.

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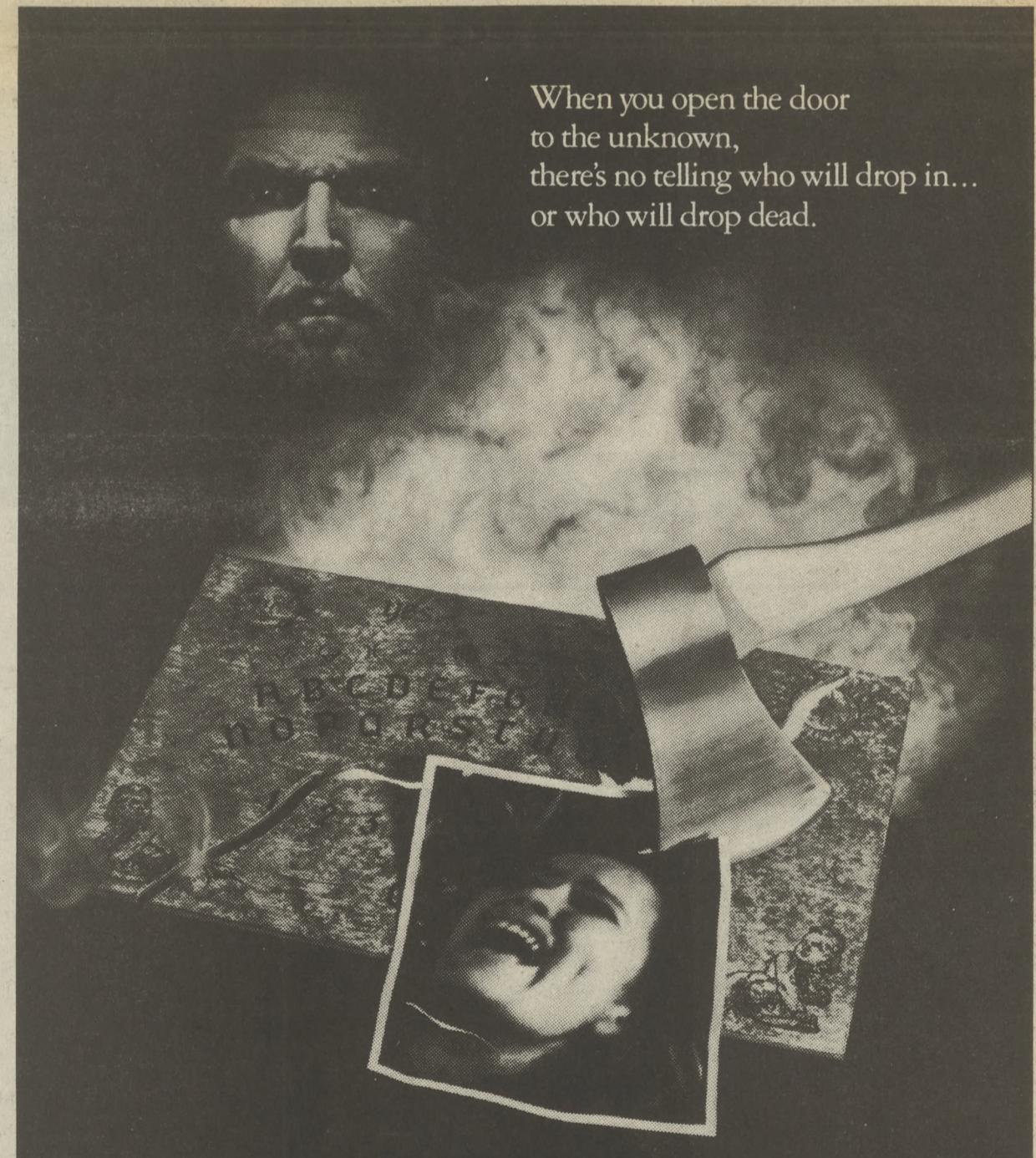
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Sports

Valley loses in state tournament

After loss, coach favors change

By CHRIS MATHIS
Staff Writer

It is the morning after, a grey dismal day. One that probably fits the mood of the Valley College women's basketball team after last Thursday's loss to Merritt College in the state quarterfinals.

However, women's basketball head coach, Jim Stephens, seems in good enough spirits on this dreary morning after.



JOEL ROSENBAUM / Valley Star

Jim Stephens.

Perhaps Stephens is in a pleasant mood because he has learned to take the victories and defeats all in stride after twenty-six years of coaching. Or maybe it's because he has his eyes set on a new challenge.

Stephens will return as the head coach of the men's basketball team after an absence of five seasons.

"If I'm going to coach I'd rather coach the men," said Stephens. "... For a lot of reasons.

"Men seem to have more things driving them than the women do. I don't know. Maybe I've got it (basketball) out of perspective but that's how I feel."

Stephens coached the Monarch women for three seasons following two seasons at Pierce College where he headed the men's program there.

At Pierce, Stephens led the Brahmas to consecutive conference titles.

Pierce's program, however, was dropped because of budget cuts. Stephens held a teaching position at

Valley while he was holding the head coaching position at Pierce, so he took over the Monarch women's program.

Before he coached at Pierce, Stephens was the head coach of the Valley men's team for eight. Now he returns to the LAVC men who had a difficult season this year under exiting coach Virgil Watson.

"I feel that Virgil could coach but he lacks experience," said returning Monarch guard George Powdrill who looks for the coaching change to improve Valley's prospects for next season. "I think this coaching change will help a little bit."

Stephen's personal philosophy about the game of basketball seems simple enough.

"I'm really hard on myself," said Stephens. "I'm a perfectionist. In some ways that's bad. I'm intense and I don't hold things in."

He also can't understand effort that is half-hearted.

"So many kids nowadays would be glad if practice was cancelled. When I was a boy we would've been heart-broken."

Attributing his standards of excellence to the support he received from his coaches and his father, Stephens tries to pass on what was given to him through his work as a coach and a teacher.

"As a coach I push education. That's the most important thing. I meet the kids parents and I tell them what's expected. I want to know the kids environment."

Because of higher education requirements at the university level, Stephens expects the caliber of players at the community college level to improve.

"If you don't have the requirements you won't play. A lot of great players aren't making those requirements and they will show up here," Stephens said.

As the interview concluded, the clouds were breaking up and the sun was begging to shine. Perhaps Stephens will shed some much needed light on the men's basketball program at Valley.

JOEL ROSENBAUM / Valley Star
Janeene Washington pulls down a rebound during Valley's state tournament loss to Merritt College.

Merritt presses past Monarchs

By DANNY SCHUMACHER
Sports Editor

There was no movie script followed for the Valley College women's basketball team's quarter-final game of the state tournament against Merritt College, of Oakland, last Friday.

There was no last minute heave across the court in the closing seconds for a glorious Monarch victory. The opportunity never arose.

Instead, the Monarchs were ungloriously blown out by the Thunder Birds, 58-41, at Cypress College.

"They were a whole lot better than us tonight. We just didn't have the enthusiasm. We count on Demetra all of the time. We were hesitant and didn't attack."

Throughout the contest, Merritt (24-8), utilized a full court pressure defense that at times appeared to frustrate and confuse the Monarchs. Valley (25-4), which had one of its better seasons in recent years, had the ball stolen 10 times and was forced into 19 turnovers. Point guard Bernadette Tillis was credited for 9 of those turnovers.

Monique James made life miserable for the Monarchs on defense. The 5-foot-6 guard recorded a game high 5 steals and consistently disrupted Valley's offensive attack.

Offensively, Merritt relied heavily on Yosau Gray and Audrey Moore. Gray, a sophomore who's averaging 17.6 points per game, led all scorers with 18 points on 7-of-18 shooting. Moore was 8-of-17 from the field for 16 points.

"Those (Gray and Moore) are our top two scorers," said Merritt coach

Fred Brown who's team went on to play unbeaten College of the Sequoias (33-0) last Friday in the semifinals. "Our pressure hurt them the most. In a half-court game I'm sure they are better."

In the first half it appeared that Brown was right.

Both teams were evenly matched in the first half. Merritt quickly took a 6-2 lead but Valley got its outside game untracked and tied the score.

The lead see-sawed throughout the half with Valley enjoying an advantage no larger than two.

Merritt's fast break attack was sporadic and the Thunderbirds were forced to shoot it out with the Monarchs. The result was a poor first half shooting performance of 31 percent for the Thunderbirds and they were outrebounded 19-14.

Freshman Demetra Johnson held a hot hand and helped the Monarchs to a 25-24 halftime lead. The 5-foot-10 forward scored on three straight jump shots to close the first half and led all scorers at halftime with 10 points.

In the second half, Johnson's 20-footers began to harmlessly bounce off the front of the rim into the hands of waiting Merritt players. She finished with 14 points on a poor 7-of-22 shooting performance.

Midway through the second half, Merritt broke loose on an 18-4 scoring run to take a 54-37 lead. At one point Valley went 5:00 without scoring any points and was outscored 34-16 in the second half.

"They were a whole lot better than us tonight," said Valley coach Jim Stephens. "We just didn't have the enthusiasm. We count on Demetra all of the time. We were hesitant and didn't attack."

Despite the final defeat, there is no doubt that the Monarchs enjoyed a successful season and with four starters (Johnson, Tillis, Traci Atkins, and Janene Washington) returning, next season looks to be just as successful.

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